

NAS JACKSONVILLE

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Stakeholder's Report

Your Source for Environmental News

New NAS JACKSONVILLE COMMANDING OFFICER SEES cleaner, safer place

There's a new man heading up the Naval Air Station Jacksonville team and he's excited about the base's Installation Restoration Program.

"We are trying to do the right thing," said Captain Robert D. Whitmire, the new commanding officer who took the helm of the naval air station on August 25. "We will do the right thing because the Navy is part of the community, too. We live here and we are concerned about the environment as well."

Capt. Whitmire already attended his first Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting on September 19, and he plans to attend more of them.

"We need the community's input to help us do what's best for the base and the community," he said. "We need to

know what our neighbors think so we can make good cleanup decisions. Together it will be a win-win situation."

Capt. Whitmire is a 1974 U.S. Naval Academy graduate and a naval aviator with hundreds of hours of flight time in the P-3 Orion anti-submarine warfare aircraft. He served previous tours in Jacksonville with Patrol Squadrons (VP) 5, 16, and 30.

While there are a myriad of areas under his responsibility, Capt. Whitmire lists the Installation Restoration Program as one of his top priorities.

"I have children and I think about what the world will be like when they grow up,"

Captain R.D. Whitmire
Commanding Officer



explained the concerned parent. "I'm happy to be part of our effort to clean up contaminated areas and (Cont. Back page)

New PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER on board

Bill Dougherty is the newest addition to the NAS Jacksonville team. As the Installation Restoration (IR) Public Affairs Officer, Dougherty will be responsible for all communications between the base and the Jacksonville community regarding the Installation Restoration of NAS Jacksonville.

"I look forward to enhancing two-way communication between the base and the Jacksonville community," says Dougherty. "As the Installation Restoration continues

on base, it is important to keep the community updated, as well as get feedback from the community about our cleanup." Dougherty's plans include speaking engagements and presentations for schools and community organizations, working (Cont. back page)



TOWN MEETING - Look for a town meeting in February 1996. NAS Jacksonville will announce the date, time and location of the meeting in the *Florida Times-Union*, *JAX Air News* and in distributed flyers.

LNAPL - Light Non-Aqueous Phase Liquid (LNAPL) is a technical name for a fluid containing oil, gasoline, or other petroleum products that float on water but don't easily mix. NAS Jacksonville is currently collecting an average of 55 gallons of LNAPL per month from the Child Street Area (Operable Unit One). There is a request in, for 1996, to make this an active system. An active system involves lowering the groundwater level to create a cone-shaped depression where oil can collect, making it easier to pump out of the ground. Going active on this system is contingent on receipt of funding.

PSC 13 - Workers finished excavating the Radium Paint Disposal Pit and filled it with clean soil. Now that this site is clean, look for construction of a new storage facility here to support Naval Aviation Depot (NADEP) activities.

BUILDINGS 106 & 708 - The Navy will use air sparging (blowing air into groundwater to release contaminants) and then recapturing those contaminants using soil vapor extraction (vacuuming of vapors from the soil) as part of the remediation for Building 106, the Base Laundry. For Building 708, the Solvent Recycling Facility, workers will use soil vapor extraction and groundwater extraction (removing contaminated water from the ground) to clean up that area. Both projects are in the design phase and NAS Jacksonville requested funding for these projects in 1996.

Cleanup **ALTERNATIVE** SELECTED for PSC 42

As part of the installation restoration program at NAS Jacksonville, the Navy accelerates cleanup at sites where contamination has been identified as requiring immediate action. One of the early cleanup actions — an interim remedial action — has been proposed and selected for PSC 42, the Wastewater Treatment Plant Effluent Polishing Pond, located in the Wastewater Treatment Plant Area of the base (Operable Unit 2).

The Wastewater Treatment Plant Effluent Polishing Pond was used to provide final clarification for approximately 2.3 million gallons per day of treated domestic and industrial wastewater, prior to chlorination and discharge into the St. Johns River. Sediment from this wastewater settled to the bottom of the pond, resulting in a "sludge" layer.

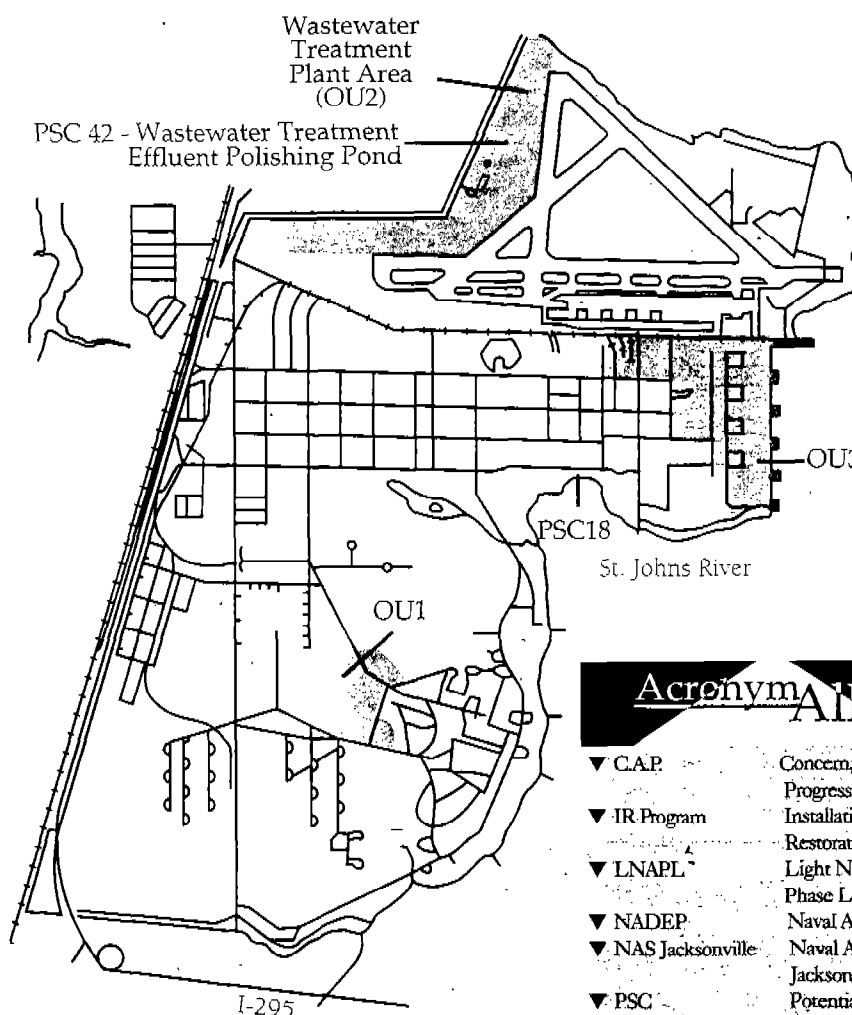
Over the summer, after reviewing input from the community and cleanup specialists, the Navy selected in situ ("in its place") stabilization of the sludge. In situ means the sludge will be treated on-site.

The steps for this cleanup alternative include:

- Site clearing and layout for implementation of the alternative.
- Creating a small wall, called berming, and lining the area surrounding the pond perimeter to prevent overflow.
- Stabilization of the sludge and groundwater on-site.
- Sampling and testing of treated sludge to ensure the treatment reduced or removed the contamination.

According to Diane Lancaster, Installation Restoration Manager for NAS Jacksonville, work will begin in early 1996 and will take nine months to complete.

The Navy, along with members of the community on the Restoration Advisory Board, selected this cleanup alternative because it is significantly less expensive and will still meet the ultimate goal — stabilizing the contaminant, and meeting the regulatory closure requirements by preventing contaminant exposure to humans and wildlife.



Acronym Alley

▼ C.A.P.	Concern, Action, Progress
▼ IR Program	Installation Restoration Program
▼ LNAPL	Light Non-Aqueous Phase Liquid
▼ NADEP	Naval Aviation Depot
▼ NAS Jacksonville	Naval Air Station Jacksonville
▼ PSC	Potential Source of Contamination
▼ RAB	Restoration Advisory Board

Friends OF THE earth



Margo Latham,
RAB Community Cochair

NAME: Margo Latham

HOME TOWN: Orange Park, FL

POSITION: Restoration Advisory Board (RAB)
Community Cochair, a voluntary position

WHY IS THE RAB IMPORTANT TO
YOU AND THE COMMUNITY?

NAS Jacksonville is a vital part of our community here in Jacksonville, and I believe the RAB will help provide information about the cleanup to the community in a responsible manner. By giving the Navy feedback from the community, the RAB allows the Navy to make educated cleanup decisions, while keeping the community's needs in mind.

C.A.P. Corner

(Concern, ACTION, progress)

Question:

How will congressionally-proposed budget cuts affect NAS Jacksonville's Installation Restoration Program?

Along with the rest of the Department of Defense, we will be tightening our belts. Some of the studies and cleanups will be slowed by decreased funding, but fortunately, we still are able to fund some interim remedial actions. With the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Environmental Protection Agency, our consultants, contractors, and Naval Facilities Engineering Command, we



are continuing to look at ways we can get things done for the least amount of money. Although funds have been reduced, our commitment and enthusiasm are still very high.

Question:

With contamination located in so many areas (currently 49 sites) around the base, is there any danger to people who live on base?

There is no danger to residents on the station from the Potential Sources of Contamination (PSCs) that have been identified. Those areas that have higher risk have fences around them to prevent trespassers from entering the area.

People who want to ask a question about the NAS Jacksonville Installation Restoration Program can contact Bill Dougherty, Public Affairs Officer, at 772-4032.

Installation RESTORATION

UNDERWAY AT Mulberry Cove

Work is underway to remove low-level radium contaminated soil at the north shore of Mulberry Cove, also known as Potential Source of Contamination (PSC) 18.

Bechtel Environmental, Inc., began the work October 23 to remove more than 6,000 cubic yards of dirt. According to Diane Lancaster, Installation Restoration Program Manager for NAS Jacksonville, the contract will take about four months to complete.

A fence now surrounds PSC 18. The removal of the soil is part of the remediation, or cleanup, process for the site.

"The Navy used radium on aircraft dials during World War II to allow pilots to read their instruments in the dark," said Lancaster. "The NAS Jacksonville Assembly and Repair Department (now called the Naval Aviation Depot) removed and replaced the radium-contaminated instruments during maintenance and repair of the aircraft. Disposal practices in the 1940s were different than today and

the workers buried the old instruments and paint in a pit outside the shop. Those disposal practices are not used today."

Lancaster said that in the 1950s, the base had the pit dug up and used the dirt for "fill" in the area known as Mulberry Cove. A 1993 survey revealed low level radiation in the soil. A fence went up

immediately after the survey, with removal of the soil originally scheduled for fiscal year 1995.

"That was the plan," explained Lancaster, "however, congressional funding cuts

delayed the project until now."

Lancaster added that there is no danger to people or animals because the radiation levels are extremely low. Even with that in mind, the fence was set up not only as a safety measure, but as a deterrent to trespassers during excavation.

If you have questions or concerns about the work in progress, contact Bill Dougherty in the NAS Jacksonville Public Affairs Office, 772-4032.



Joe Gallimore (on ladder) and Robert Russell use a Kitty Hawk pole placer to install a fence that will surround the Mulberry Cove area in PSC 18. The two men are with Federal Fence, subcontractors for Bechtel Environmental Services, Inc.

Photo by Bill Dougherty

RAB RAP

UPDATE

FROM THE

NAS JACKSONVILLE

Restoration Advisory Board



⇒ The RAB has recently

found a permanent home for their monthly meetings. Held from 7-9 p.m. on the third Tuesday of every month, meetings will take place in the library of the Timucuan Elementary School, 5429 110th Street, Jacksonville. The public is invited and encouraged to attend. For information on the meetings, contact Bill Dougherty, Public Affairs Officer, NAS Jacksonville, 772-4032.

⇒ The RAB is looking for new community members. RAB members provide a vital communications link between the community and the base regarding the Installation Restoration of NAS Jacksonville. Commitment to the RAB requires attending monthly RAB meetings, an interest in the clean up activities on base, and the desire to not only share information with neighbors, friends and community groups, but to provide feedback from the community to the RAB. Call 772-4032 for more details.

⇒ Mark your calendars for upcoming RAB meetings: January 16 and February 20, 1996. There will be no December meeting due to the holiday season.

COMMANDING OFFICER SEES *cleaner, safer place (cont.)*

make them safe for everyone. It's a tremendous source of pride to know that our Navy is among the city leaders in this area and that we are 'turning dirt' and getting the job done."

Capt. Whitmire said the Navy is better educated on environmental issues than in the past. He added that people didn't see the dangers of materials like asbestos or lead paint years ago, but through the efforts of both the Navy and

community, NAS Jacksonville can correct past disposal practices and move ahead to a cleaner, safer Jacksonville.

"I'd like to target the sites that can be completed in two years and get those sites closed out," said Capt. Whitmire. A commanding officer's tour is usually two years. "If we can get those sites completed, then both the Navy and our community will see real progress. I'm confident we can reach this goal."

OFFICER on board (cont.)

with the Restoration Advisory Board and further development of the *Stakeholder's Report* newsletter. An accredited public relations professional (APRP) with the Florida Public Relations Association, Dougherty brings more than 20 years of public relations, media relations, editorial, and special events experience to his position. As a senior chief journalist with the Navy, Dougherty was editor for more than 10 Navy publications, including the *Guantanamo Daily Gazette*, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, the Navy's only shore-based daily newspaper.

During his enlisted years with the Navy, Dougherty served in a variety of capacities, including public affairs officer for the Navy Recruiting District Jacksonville, covering southeast Georgia, north and central Florida, and assistant public affairs officer aboard the USS Saratoga. Dougherty retired from the Navy in January 1994.

Schools or community groups interested in Dougherty or other Navy personnel as speakers can contact the Public Affairs Office at 772-4032.

Who **TO** CALL

▼ For general questions or comments relating to NAS Jacksonville's Installation Restoration Environmental Program, contact Bill Dougherty, Installation Restoration Public Affairs Officer, NAS Jacksonville • 772-4032.

▼ For specific technical questions relating to the project and cleanup operations, contact Diane Lancaster, Installation Restoration Manager • 772-2717, ext. 119.

▼ For information about wells or to make a request that your drinking water well be tested, contact Grazna Pawlowicz, Duval Public Health Unit, City of Jacksonville • 630-3272.

▼ An information repository containing documents related to the Installation Restoration activities at NAS Jacksonville is available at the Webb Wesconnett Branch Library. Documents include work plans, summary of applicable laws, remedial investigation and cleanup reports and other site-related documents. They are available at:

Webb Wesconnett Branch Library
6887 103rd Street
Jacksonville, Florida 32210
(904) 778-7305



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